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To clinch the victory for democracy; to contrast and replace the defects of each nation with the excellencies of the others, thus perfecting all national characters; to round the education in enlightened self-interest begun by the war; to develop national and class generosity, and thereby to unite all classes and peoples into one co-operating family, billion-dollar armaments are as fraught with peril as the institution proposed is full of promise. Re-enforced by international arbitration and public opinion, international education for world statesmen insures the only benefits at all comparable with the infinite evil of the war—a golden era of international good will and individual welfare.

### AMERICAN GROUP OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

**T**HE REGULAR annual meeting of the American Group of the Interparliamentary Union was held in the Caucus room of the House of Representatives February 24, 1921, President William B. McKinley, Senator from Illinois, presiding. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President, Senator William B. McKinley.

Vice-Presidents, Congressman Andrew J. Montague, Virginia.  
Congressman Halvor Steenerson, Minnesota.

Congressman William A. Oldfield, Arkansas.

Treasurer, Congressman Adolph J. Saboth, Illinois.

Secretary, Congressman Henry G. Dupré, Louisiana.

Executive Secretary, Arthur Deerin Call, 613 Colorado Building, Washington, D. C.

#### *Members of the Executive Committee:*

Senator William B. McKinley, Illinois, *ex officio*, chairman.

Congressman Andrew J. Montague, Virginia.

Congressman Fred Britten, Illinois.

Congressman Theodore Burton, Ohio.

Congressman Henry Allen Cooper, Wisconsin.

Congressman William W. Rucker, Missouri.

Congressman William A. Oldfield, Arkansas.

Congressman Joseph T. Robinson, Arkansas.

Senator Thomas Sterling, South Dakota.

Congressman Henry W. Temple, Pennsylvania.

Congressman Halvor Steenerson, Minnesota.

Congressman James C. McLaughlin, Michigan.

There were expressions of regret at the continued illness of the efficient Executive Secretary, Dr. S. N. D. North, who was compelled recently to retire on account of his state of health, and hope was expressed that he might speedily recover.

The American Group of the Interparliamentary Union may expect to be called upon again to function very soon. The General Secretary of the Union, Christian L. Langé, writes from the headquarters of the Union at Geneva that he has just returned after upward of two months in Athens and in Rome. He reports that groups were re-constituted in each of those parliaments. He urges that during the coming special session of the American Congress everything should be done to extend the member-

ship of the American Group, especially since the Interparliamentary Council is to meet at Geneva on or about April 1, and still more especially because the Stockholm Conference of all the groups in the Union is to be held during August of the present year. It will be recalled that this conference was to have been held in Stockholm, upon the invitation of the Swedish Group, in August, 1914. The invitation of the Swedish parliamentarians having been renewed, Dr. Langé and his associates plan now for a successful resumption of the work of the Union. It is the hope of the management that many American members of the Union, Senators and Congressmen, will be present at the Nineteenth General Conference in Stockholm.

### PRESIDENT HARDING'S INAUGURAL

We cite from the inaugural message of President Harding to his countrymen, delivered at the Capitol, March 4, those words which have to do directly with the foreign policy of the United States and with the international relations of the world.

**M**Y COUNTRYMEN: When one surveys the world about him after the great storm, noting the marks of destruction and yet rejoicing in the ruggedness of the things which withstood it, if he is an American he breathes the clarified atmosphere with a strange mingling of regret and new hope. We have seen a world passion spend its fury, but we contemplate our Republic unshaken and hold our civilization secure. **Liberty—liberty within the law—and civilization are inseparable, and though both were threatened we find them now secure, and there comes to Americans the profound assurance that our representative government is the highest expression and surest guaranty of both.**

Standing in this presence, mindful of the solemnity of this occasion, feeling the emotions which no one may know until he senses the great weight of responsibility for himself, I must utter my belief in the Divine inspiration of the founding fathers. Surely there must have been God's intent in the making of this new world Republic. Ours is an organic law which had but one ambiguity, and we saw that effaced in a baptism of sacrifice and blood, with union maintaining the nation supreme and its concord inspiring. We have seen the world rivet its hopeful gaze on the great truths on which the founders wrought. We have civil, human, and religious liberty verified and glorified. In the beginning the old world scoffed at our experiment; today our foundations of political and social belief stand unshaken, a precious inheritance to ourselves, an inspiring example of freedom and civilization to all mankind. Let us express renewed and strengthened devotion, in grateful reverence for the immortal beginning, and utter our confidence in the supreme fulfillment.

#### Progress Proves Wisdom

The recorded progress of our Republic, materially and spiritually, in itself proves the wisdom of the inherited policy of non-involvement in old-world

affairs. Confident of our ability to work out our own destiny and jealously guarding our right to do so, we seek no part in directing the destinies of the old world. We do not mean to be entangled. We will accept no responsibility except as our own conscience and judgment, in each instance, may determine.

Our eyes never will be blind to a developing menace, our ears never deaf to the call of civilization. We recognize the new order in the world with the closer contacts which progress has wrought. We sense the call of the human heart for fellowship, fraternity, and co-operation. We crave friendship, and harbor no hate. But America, our America, the America builded on the foundation laid by the inspired fathers, can be a party to no permanent military alliance. It can enter into no political commitments, nor assume any economic obligations which will subject our decisions to any other than our own authority.

I am sure our own people will not misunderstand, nor will the world misconstrue. We have no thought to impede the paths to closer relationship. We wish to promote understanding. We want to do our part in making offensive warfare so hateful that governments and peoples who resort to it must prove the righteousness of their cause or stand as outlaws before the bar of civilization.

#### Association for Council

We are ready to associate ourselves with the nations of the world, great and small, for conference, for counsel, to seek the expressed views of world opinion, to recommend a way to approximate disarmament and relieve the crushing burden of military and naval establishments. We elect to participate in suggesting plans for mediation, conciliation, and arbitration, and would gladly join in that expressed conscience of progress which seeks to clarify and write the laws of international relationship and establish a world court for the disposition of such justiciable questions as nations are agreed to submit thereto. In expressing aspirations, in seeking practical plans, in translating humanity's new concept of righteousness and justice and its hatred of war into recommended action, we are ready most heartily to unite, but every commitment must be made in the exercise of our national sovereignty. Since freedom impelled, and independence inspired, and nationality exalted, a world supergovernment is contrary to everything we cherish and can have no sanction by our Republic. This is not selfishness; it is sanctity. It is not aloofness; it is security. It is not suspicion of others; it is patriotic adherence to the things which made us what we are.

Today, better than ever before, we know the aspirations of humankind and share them. We have come to a new realization of our place in the world and a new appraisal of our nation by the world. The unselfishness of these United States is a thing proven; our devotion to peace for ourselves and for the world is well established; our concern for preserved civilization has had its impassioned and

heroic expression. There was no American failure to resist the attempted reversion of civilization; there will be no failure today or tomorrow.

#### Rests on Popular Will

The success of our popular government rests wholly upon the correct interpretation of the deliberate, intelligent, dependable popular will of America. In a deliberate questioning of a suggested change of national policy, where internationality was to supersede nationality, we turned to a referendum of the American people. There was ample discussion and there is a public mandate in manifest understanding. America is ready to encourage, eager to initiate, anxious to participate, in any seemly program likely to lessen the probability of war and promote that brotherhood of mankind, which must be God's highest conception of human relationship. Because we cherish ideals of justice and peace, because we appraise international comity and helpful relationship no less highly than any people of the world, we aspire to a high place in the moral leadership of civilization, and we hold a maintained America, the proven Republic, the unshaken temple of representative democracy, to be not only an inspiration and example, but the highest agency of strengthening good will and promoting accord on both continents.

Mankind needs a world-wide benediction of understanding. It is needed among individuals, among peoples, among governments, and it will inaugurate an era of good feeling to mark the birth of a new order. In such understanding men will strive confidently for the promotion of their better relationship and nations will promote the comities so essential to peace.

#### Trade Ties Bind Closely

We must understand that ties of trade bind nations in closest intimacy, and none may receive except as he gives. We have not strengthened ours in accordance with our resources or our genius, notably on our own continent, where a galaxy of republics reflect the glory of a new world democracy, but in the new order of finance and trade we mean to promote enlarged activities and seek expanded confidence.

Perhaps we can make no more helpful contribution by example than prove a republic's capacity to emerge from the wreckage of war. While the world's embittered travail did not leave us devastated lands nor desolated cities, left no gaping wounds, no breast filled with hate, it did involve us in the delirium of expenditure, in expanded currency and credits, in unbalanced industry, in unspeakable waste, and disturbed relationships. While it uncovered our portion of hateful selfishness at home, it also revealed the heart of America as sound and fearless, and beating in confidence unailing.

Amid it all, we have riveted the gaze of all civilization to the unselfishness and the righteousness of representative democracy, where our freedom never has made offensive warfare, never has sought territorial aggrandizement through force, never had turned to the arbitrament of arms until reason had been exhausted. When the governments of the

earth shall have established freedom like our own and shall have sanctioned the pursuit of peace as we have practiced it, I believe the last sorrow and the final sacrifice of international warfare will have been written.

#### Our Supreme Task

Our supreme task is the resumption of our onward normal way. Reconstruction, readjustment, restoration—all these must follow. I would like to hasten them. If it will lighten the spirit and add to the resolution with which we take up the task, let me repeat for our nation, we shall give no people just cause to make war upon us. We hold no national prejudices; we entertain no spirit of revenge; we do not hate; we do not covet; we dream of no conquest nor boast of armed prowess.

War never left us such an aftermath. There has been staggering loss of life and measureless wastage of materials. Nations are still groping for return to stable ways. Discouraging indebtedness confronts us, like all war-torn nations; and these obligations must be provided for. No civilization can survive repudiation.

I speak for administrative efficiency, for lightened tax burdens, for sound commercial practices, for adequate credit facilities, for sympathetic concern for agricultural problems, for the omissions of unnecessary interference of government with business, for an end to government's experiments with business, and for a more efficient business in government administration. With all of this must attend a mindfulness of the human side of all activities, so that industrial and economic justice will be squared with the purposes of a righteous people.

#### Service the Supreme Commitment

**Service is the supreme commitment of life. I would rejoice to acclaim the era of the Golden Rule and crown it with the autocracy of service. I pledge an administration wherein all the agencies of government are called to serve and ever promote an understanding of government purely as an expression of the popular will.**

One cannot stand in this presence and be unmindful of the tremendous responsibility. The world upheaval has added heavily to our tasks. But with the realization comes the surge of high resolve, and there is reassurance in belief in the God-given destiny of our Republic. If I felt that there is to be sole responsibility in the Executive for the America of tomorrow, I should shrink from the burden. But here are a hundred millions, with common concern and shared responsibility, answerable to God and country. The Republic summons them to their duty and I invite co-operation.

I accept my part with single-mindedness of purpose and humility of spirit and implore the favor and guidance of God in His Heaven. With these I am unafraid and confidently face the future.

I have taken the solemn oath of office on that passage of Holy Writ wherein it is asked, "What doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly, and to love mercy, and walk humbly with thy God." This I plight to God and country.

## IT IS REPORTED

That fifty thousand Chinese sufferers are being fed today by the American Red Cross.

That the United States is spending \$90,000,000 a year more on tobacco than on education.

That it is estimated that 80,000 people in Prague and 30,000 in Pilsen have recently seceded from the Roman Catholic Church.

That traffic through the Panama Canal during the calendar year 1920 exceeded that during any previous period of twelve months.

That automobile and other vehicular accidents attain their maximum percentage of fatalities among children from five to nine years of age.

That the New York City subways carried over 586,000,000 passengers in 1920—a number greater than the entire population of Europe.

That the Belgian Senate has approved the proposal to bury the body of an unknown Belgian soldier beneath a monument to those who died in the war.

That Porto Rico is one of the most densely populated countries in the world, having a population of 1,198,970 living on 3,888 square miles of territory.

That for the first time in the history of the Church of England in Jamaica, women have this year been elected members of the committees of several churches.

That Petrograd, which at the beginning of the World War had a population of 2,500,000, is now reported as having only 750,000, and is familiarly known as "A Ghost Town."

That a bill has been introduced by the Dutch Minister for Education for the compulsory physical training of the entire Dutch population between sixteen and nineteen years of age.

That Rheims will celebrate the return of the statue of Joan of Arc, removed from the city during the heavy bombardments of 1918, by a pageant and fête, which will be held on July 16 and 17.

That four paintings, including a Corot of great value, have been found in the store-room of a small shop near Valenciennes, these probably having been hidden and left there by the Germans in 1918.

That funds for the establishment and maintenance of a commercial school at Shanghai, China, have been provided by the Chinese and French governments, the school to be under the control of the two nations.

That a chamber of commerce, to be known as the American Chamber of Commerce of Egypt, with headquarters at Alexandria, was organized at the American Consulate November 20, 1920, by American business men at Alexandria and Cairo.